

Action Minutes
WATER POLICY TASK FORCE
September 20, 2007
Conference Room - Riverside B

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Larry Forester at 10:10 a.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the public spoke.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a motion and second to approve the June 28, 2007 Action Minutes. Approved unanimously.

4.0 PRESENTATION ITEMS FOR THE TASK FORCE

4.1 Update on the Trash and Metals TMDLs for the Los Angeles River

Dr. L.B. Nye, Chief of the TMDLs and Standards on the staff of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, reviews the status of three TMDLs: the Trash and Metals TMDLs for the Los Angeles River and the Metals TMDL for Ballona Creek. She also discussed implementation issues related to these TMDLs. Ken Farfsing, City Manager of the City of Signal Hill, made comments on the importance of cost-effective strategies for implementation of these TMDLs. He urged SCAG to support such strategies in order to achieve earlier results in pollution reduction with currently limited fiscal resources. the TAskwill brief the Task Force on current issues related to the Trash and Metals TMDLs for the Los Angeles River.

4.2 Southern California's Water Supplies After Judge Wanger's Decision

Randall Neudeck, Program Manager at Metropolitan Water District (MWD), briefed the Task Force on the August 31, 2007 endangered species decision by Federal Judge Oliver Wanger that potentially could shut off the water southern California receives from the State Water Project. The ruling is to be clarified with additional hearings but early estimates of those imported water reductions range from 7% to 30%. He reviewed MWD's Delta strategy for addressing these and other challenges. That strategy has three time horizons: near-term that addresses emergency conditions, mid-term that emphasizes ecosystem health and long-term that improves water supply reliability with a stable conveyance system.

Albert Napoli, also with MWD, summarized results on certain state legislation affecting the region, including AB 224, AB 1420, AB 1481, AB 31, AB 732, SBX21 and SB 1002. The special session on water issues will consider water infrastructure proposals by the Governor and by Sen. Perata. Both concepts share similar approaches but differ with respect to water storage and the construction of dams.

4.3 A Nexus between Land Use and Water Conservation: The Values of Stormwater Management in Southern California

Bo Cutter, Assistant Professor at UC Riverside and Member of the Task Force, discussed recently completed studies that evaluated the benefits of retaining stormwater for reuse by maximizing infiltration opportunities, looking at both parcel and macro level water management planning. His findings indicate that there are both economic and environmental advantages when pervious surfaces are protected or created to maximize on site infiltration. Stormwater runoff carries fewer pollutants, flood control systems are relieved of added runoff pressures and water supplies are enhanced with improved infiltration.

4.4 Other Legislative Reporting

SCAG staff member, Leeor Alpern, reviewed several bills that have been tracked by SCAG during the recent legislative session. He also invited the Task Force to provide comments and feedback on SCAG's Legislative Program. The Chair directed Task Force members to communicate any ideas or concerns to staff.

4.5 A Methodology for Selecting Projects With Better Comprehensive Outcomes

Tom West, Consulting Project Manager for the Greater Los Angeles Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, discussed efforts for improving a methodology by which the decision makers of the Plan can better select projects that optimize a mix of water supply, water quality, environmental and community benefits. The challenge associated with this effort is creating criteria that properly balance project features and that produce water resources outcomes that are acceptable to those governing the Plan and its implementation. Each stakeholder in the Plan has specific project interests that are competing for funding through Propositions 50 and 84. Projects are typically assessed by their outputs, while the Plan is ultimately assessed by the system outcomes. These differences create the challenge of this methodology work.

4.6 Water Chapter in the Draft Regional Comprehensive Plan

There was no time to take up Task Force comments on the on the proposed goals, outcomes and actions in the current draft of the Water Chapter (a part of the developing Regional Comprehensive Plan). The Chair asked Task Force members to communicate their comments directly to staff following the meeting.

5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair suggested that greater public use of evapo-transpiration controllers systems be put on a future agenda, focusing on what cities can do to advance these opportunities in public spaces.

6.0 STAFF REPORT

There was no staff report.

7.0 TASK FORCE INFORMATION SHARING

There was no sharing.

8.0 COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were made.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.